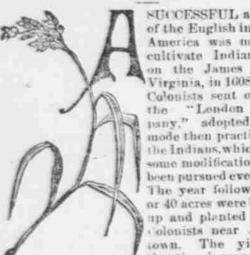
PLANTS AND CEREALS.

A Short Talk on the History of Some of Our Foodmakers.

BY J. SADLER.



SUCCESSFUL attempt

the Indians, which, with some modifications, has been pursued ever since. The year following, 30 up and planted by the olonists near Jamestown. The yield at that time is represented to have been from two hundred to mere than a

thousandfold.

THE CORN PLANT, America, an instance of which may be illus- the view of preventing famine. trated in the following allegory, as related by Mr. Schoolcraft, of the Ojibbeways:

green and having green plumes on fis head, most extensively cultivated. strength renewed by the effort.

spoke to him. "To-morrow," said he, "will be whites." The red-coats were the seventh day of your fast, and the last time I shall wrestle with you. You will triumph over me and gain your wishes. As soon as you have thrown me down, strip off my clothes and bury me on the spot, in

SOFT FRESH EARTH.

with fre h earth." instructions in every particular, and soon had | as early as the year 1648. holding the natured plant bending with its | which was sown the following year.

the spirit's grain,"

is the origin of Indian corn. The introduction of wheat into the North periods of their settlements by Europeans. It | rice in Carolina is the result of a was first sown, with other grains, on the Elizabeth Islands, in Massachusetts, by Goscold, at the time be explored that coast in 1860. In 1611 wheat, as well as other grains, was also sown in Virginia, and by the year 1648 there

MANY BUNDRED ACRES

offered as an encouragement of its growth in to Europe in the early part of the 12th cen-1651, it was not much cultivated for more than tury at the time of the Crusades for the recovery a century after, in consequence of the iii- of Syria from the dominion of the Saracens directed attention to the culture of tobacco. while others contend that it was introduced Prior to the Revolution the primitive soils of | into Spain by the Moors, 400 years before.

Caucasian desert; but more recent observations in 1748, '49, speaks of it as growing in Penn have shown that this wild plant is different sylvania, New Jersey and New York. from the cultivated varieties, particularly in growing the central stem of the car so brittle that it cannot be thrashed.

Wild rye is also found in Sicily; but this, too, has characteristics by which it differs from the cultivated kind. Yet we do not know with certainty whether the parent of this plant has totally vanished, or has become so altered by cultivation in the course of time, that we cannot recognize it in the species to which it actunlly does owe its origin.

EYE WAS CULTIVATED

in most of the North American Colonies soon | lent fruits by planting in Virginia," published after their settlement by Europeans. Gorges in London, in 1609, it is stated that cotton speaks of it as growing in Nova Scotia in 1622. | would grow as well in that Province as in sent to Holland from the little colony on Manbattan Island that year.

on Marthu's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Is- Carolinas and Georgia, in the garden, though don Company in Virginia in 1611. By the year sumption, 1648 it was raised in abundance in that colony; increased production of tobacco.

the artificial grasses, and the nourishment and and knowledge to the utmost parts of the improvement it affords to live-stock, may be earth, like many of our products, is involved regarded as one of the most important crops we in lost antiquity. Early mention is made of produce. Its history is interesting from the it in the sacred volume, where it is said that Europe, when ground into meal, it forms an IMPORTANT ALIMENT FOR MAN,

one variety, at least, has been cultivated from the days of Pliny on account of its superior fitness as an article of diet for the sick. The country of its origin is vailed in the same uncertainty as that of barley or rye, though the | Romans, as Pliny, who wrote more than 1,800 most common variety is said to be indigenous | years ago, remarks on the wonder that so great to the isle of Juan Fernandez, while another a power should be developed from so small a sort, resembling it, is found growing wild in | seed as that of flax, in producing a plant which

onists on Massachusetts Bay in 1629. countries of the civilized globe, contributing as out finding burial. mountains near Vaiparaise and Mendoza; also | colonists on Manhattan Island that year, as an mear Montevideo, Lima, Quito, as well as in evidence of their prosperous condition. Santa Fe de liogota, and more recently in | Hemp and flax were annually cultivated, Mexico, on the banks of the Grizaba; but some | spun and woven, by Capt. Matthews, of Virof these, if cultivated, doubtless would prove to | ginia, prior to 1648. Bounties were offered for belong to other species than that of the com- the production of hemp in that Colony in 1651,

belongs. The history of this plant, in connection with | each poll in Virginia was required to raise per that of the sweet potato, is involved in obscurity, annum six pounds of linen thread. The Irish as the accounts of their introduction into immigrants who came to Londonderry, in New Europe are somewhat conflicting, and often | Hampshire, in 1719, soon after commenced the they appear to be confounded with one another. | manufacture of linen cloth and thread, which The common kind was doubtless

INTRODUCED INTO SPAIN in the early part of the 16th century, from the neighborhood of Quito, where, as well as in all | introduced from Europe into the British North

record is in "La Cronica del Peru," by Pedro de | they flourished well. They were also culti-Cieca, printed at Seville in 1553, in which it is | vated in Newfoundland as early as the year described and illustrated by an engraving. 1622, in New Netherland in 1644, and in Vir-From Spain it appears to have found its way | ginia prior to 1648. French, Indian, or kidney into Italy, where it assumed the same name as | beans, were extensively cultivated by the Inthe truffle. It was received by Clusius, at Vi- dians of New York and New England long beenna, in 15ted, in whose time it spread rapidly | fore their settlement by the whites, and both in the south of Europe, and even into Ger- beans and peas (calavances) of various hues many. To England it is said to have found its | were cultivated by the natives of Virginia way by a different route, having been brought | prior to the landing of Capt. Smith. Among from Virginia by Raleigh's colonists in 1586, these was embraced the celebrated cow-pea. which would seem improbable, as it was unof the Euglish in North | planted by Sir Walter Raleigh on his estate at | in the history of man. From the solace only America was made to Youghall, near Cork, and that it was cultivated of the wild Indians of America, it has become cultivate Indian corn | in Ireland before its value was known in Eng- | one of the luxuries of the rich, and gives pleason the James River, land, Gerard, in his "Herbal," published in ure to the poor, throughout the habitable globe, Virginia, in 1608. The | 1597, gives a figure of this plant, under the from the burning desert to the frozen zone. Colonists sent over by name of Batata Virginiana, to distinguish it the "London Com- from the sweet potato (Batata edulis), and recpany," adopted the ommends the roots to be caten as a "delicate it smoked by the natives in pipes made of clay.

mode then practiced by | dish," but not as a common food. was used in England

AS A DELICACY long before the introduction of our potatoes; or 40 acres were broken it was imported in considerable quantities from Spain and the Canaries, and was supposed to It is related that the common potato was acci- | the Colony, contributed to induce that taste for dentally introduced into England from Ireland | it which had already been diffused among all at a period somewhat earlier than that noticed | classes. a vessel on the coast of Lancashire, which had or its grain, frequently entered into the forms, a quantity on board. In 1663, the Royal Sothe ceremonies, and the mythology of many of ciety of England took measures for encourthe Indian tribes, both in North and in South | aging the cultivation of this vegetable, with | that Colony to so alarming an extent that even

Notwithstanding its utility as a food became and various regulations were framed to restrain better known, no high character was attached | its production, but every admonition to the A young man went out into the woods to fast, to it; and the writers on gardening, toward at that period of life when youth is exchanged | the end of the 17th century, a hundred years | by repeated proclamations and publications, to for munhood. He built a lodge of boughs in a or more after its introduction, treated it restrain its use, but his efforts had very little secluded place, and painted his face of a som- rather indifferently. "They are much used in effect, and the colonists continued to experiber bue. By day he amused himself in walk- Ireland and America as bread," says one au- ence a more rapidly-increasing and better deing about, looking at the various shrubs and | thor, "and may be propagated with advantage | mand for this staple than any other in the wild plants, and at night he lay down in his to poor people." The famous nurserymen, Province. hower, which being open, he could look up into | London and Wise, did not consider it worthy thasky. He sought a gift from the Master of of notice in their "Complete Gardener," pub-Lafe, and he hoped it would be something to lished in 1719. But its use gradually spread besefit his race. On the third day he became as its excellencies became better understood. too weak to leave the lodge, and as he lay gaz- It was near the middle of the last century being upwards he saw a spirit come down in the fore it was generally known either in Britain 1639 it was enacted by the Grand Assembly shape of a beautiful young man, dressed in or North America, since which it has been

who told him to arise and wrestle with him, as | The period of the introduction of the comthis was the only way in which he could ob- mon potato into the British North American tain his wishes. He did so and found his Colonies is not precisely known. It is men- portion to each planter, as shall make, in the tioned among the products of Carolina and whole, just the quantity of 120,000 pounds, This visit and the trial of wrestling were re- Virginia in 1749, and among those growing in stripped, smoothed," etc. In consideration peated for four days, the youth feeling at each | New York and New England the same year. | whereof, the creditors of the planters were trial that, although his bodily strength de- They were much cultivated in the latter in | compelled to accept and receive 40 pounds of clined, a moral and supernatural energy was | 1750, where they produced well and were of | tobacco, so stripped and smoothed, in full satimparted, which promised him the final vic- good size. The varieties at that time were the isfaction of every 100 pounds now due them. tory. On the third day his celestial visitor "rough coats," "red coats," and the "flat

CONSIDERED THE BEST. In 1770 are mentioned the "reddish," the 'bluish," the "white," and the "French"

their shape and of good flavor. The sweet potato (Ratata edulis) is indigen-When you have done this, leave me, but come ous to the East Indies and inter-tropical Ameroccasionally to visit the place and keep the lica, and was the "potato" of the old English weeds from growing. Once or twice cover me writers in the early part of the 14th century. It was doubtless introduced into Caro- same." He then departed, but returned the next lina, Georgia, and Virginia soon after their day, and, as he had predicted, was thrown settlements by Europeans, being mentioned as down. The young man panetually obeyed his one of the cultivated products of those Colonies

the pleasure of seeing the green plumes of his | Rice was first introduced into Virginia by and soft, and in due time was gratified by be- | bushels of an excellent quality, most or all of | other way.

golden fruit, and gracefully waving its green | This grain is stated to have been first brought leaves and yellow tassels in the wind. He into Charleston, S. C., by a Dutch brig from then invited his parents to the spot to behold | Madagascar, in 1694, the Captain of which left about a peck of paddy (rice in the husk) with "It is Mondamin," replied his father; "it is Gov. Thomas Smith, who distributed it among his friends for cultivation. Another account They immediately prepared a feast and in- of its introduction into Carolina is that Ashby to take a towel-we had no napkins. Well, wited their friends to partake of it; and this | was encouraged to send a bag containing 100 | you take the towel and wipe your "spar" so, pounds of seed rice to that Province, from the American Colonies dates back to the earliest | land in 1698; while Dalrymple maintains that | prepared to seize it. Then you turn your back

> SMALL BAG OF PADDY sent as a present from Dubois, Treasurer of the 'East India Company," to a Charleston trader. Upland or mountain rice was introduced into Charleston, from Canton, by John Bradley

Buckwheat is believed to be a native of Cenin that Colony. Although premiums were tral Asia, as it is supposed to have been brought

New York, New Jersey and New England ap- This grain appears not to have been much pear not to have rewarded the cultivation of cultivated in this country prior to the last this grain much, if any, beyond the wants of century, except by the Dutch, on the Hudson, the inhabitants. Considerable quantities were and the Swedes, on the Delaware. Samples of raised on the Hudson and in some parts of American growth were sent to Holland by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania, which were ex- colonists of Mahattan Island, together with ported to the West Indies and New England, those of other grains, as early as 1626. Preand is Great Britain, France, Portugal, and | vious to the year 1750, it was extensively culti-Spain, in the years of scarcity previous to 1723. vated by the Dutch of New York for "sup-In 1750 New Jersey raised more wheat than porn," and for provender for horses. Hohn, in his "History of New Swedeland" (Pennsyl It is not known with certainty to what | vania and Delaware), mentions it among the country rye owes its origin. It was supposed | productions of that Province; and Kahn, the that it had been found wild upon the Cuspian | Swedish naturalist, who visited this country

> Cotton, which administers so bountifully to the wants of civilized as well as to savage man, and to the wealth and economy of the countries producing it, stands

FOREMOST AMONG CROPS in the United States, both as regards its supe rior staple and the degree of perfection to which its cultivation has been brought,

Of the precise period of the first introduction of the cotton plant into the North American Colonies history is silent. In a pamphlet entitled "Nova Britannia, offering most excel-It was introduced into New Netherland pior to Italy. It is also stated, on the authority of 1626, as it is mentioned among the products | Beverly, in his "History in Virginia," that Sir Edmund Andros, while Governor of the Colony, in 1692, "gave particular marks of his favor The introduction of barley into the North | towards the propogation of cotton, which, since American Colonies may be traced back to the | his time, has been much neglected." It further periods of their settlements. It was sown by appears that it was cultivated for a long time Gosnoid, together with other English grains, in the eastern parts of Maryland, Virginia lands in 1602, and by the colonists of the Lon- | not at all as a planter's crop for domestic con-

The history of the flax plant, which has long but soon after its culture was suffered to de- | served as the medium of clothing myriads of cline, in consequence of the more profitable and | human beings, of wafting ships from sea to sea, of conveying thoughts from man to man, The oat, when considered in connection with from nation to nation, and of diffusing light istance that while in many portions of "hail destroyeth the flax and barley," when Moses was striving in vain to move Pharach to

allow the departure of the Israelites. The Egyptian mummics are wrapped in linen-an undeniable proof of the

USE OF FLAX in the remotest past. It was also known to the could be the means of bringing Egypt so near This plant was introduced into the North | to Italy, in allusion to the fact that commerce American Colonies soon after their settlements | and navigation depended principally upon its by Europeans. It was sown by Gosnold on the production, but at the same time grew angry Elizabeth Islands in 1602, cultivated in New- that men should venture to brave nature by foundand in 1622, and introduced by the col- setting sails on their vessels, and cursed those who invented the mariner's art, as well as those The common or Irish potato, so extensively | who brought it to pass that men should perish cultivated throughout most of the temperate by it, not only on the earth, but on the sea, with-

It does to the necessities of a large portion of Both flax and hemp were introduced into the the human race, as well as to the nourishment | British North American Colonies soon after and fattening of stock, is regarded as but of | their settlements by Europeans. The former little less importance in our national econ- appears to have been cultivated at New Nethomy than wheat, rice, or maize. It has been | erland as early as 1626, as it is mentioned found in an indigenous state in Chili, on the smong other products sent to Holland by the

mon potato of the numerous genus to which it and on flax in 1657; but on the cessation of the bounties the culture declined. In 1662 was afterward entered into by others, and large

quantities were sold. Spanish countries, the tubers are known as | American Colonies were by Capt. Gosnold, in 1602, who planted them on the Elizabeth Is-The first published account of it I find on lands, near the coast of Massachusetts, where

Tobacco, from the extent to which it is cul-

known in North America at that time, either | tivated, its importance to commerce, and the wild or cultivated; and, besides, Gough, in his | modes of employing it to gratify the senses, edition of Camden's Britannia, says it was first | exhibits one of the most remarkable features Sir Richard Grenville found it in Virginia in 1585, when the English, for the first time, saw It is believed to have been introduced into "The sweet potato," says Sir Joseph Banks, | England by Raleigh's colonists on their return from Virginia, in 1586. Soon after the settlement of Jamestown, from the increased demand in Europe, and the peculiar

ADAPTATION OF THE SOIL to its culture, considerable quantities were possess the power of restoring decayed vigor." | raised, and numerous individuals, interested in

by Gerard, in consequence of the wrecking of In 1611 tobacco was first cultivated in Virginia by the use of the spade, previous to which it had only been raised after the rude manner of the Indians. In 1616 it was cultivated in the streets of Jamestown were planted with it, settlers was disregarded. James I attempted,

> In 1617 the prices varied from 372 to 75 cents per pound. In 1621 each person was required to cultivate 1,000 plants of eight leaves, weighing in the aggregate 100 pounds. In 1622 there were made in the Colony 60,000 pounds. In "that all the tobacco planted this present year and the two succeeding years in the Colony of Virginia be absolutely destroyed and burned, excepting and reserving so much, in equal pro-

She Favored the Tunnel Route. [Albany Argus.]

A young couple entered the Union depot and bought tickets for Troy. There was a belt line polatoes; the latter of which were flattened in | train ready, but she persistently refused to

> "Why won't you come, Maud?" he lisped. "Oh, Chawley, I don't want to go up on this side," she gushed in reply "But, Mand, we'll get to Troy just the

"Yes, Chawley, but we won't go through the

"What do you want to go through the tunnel for, Mand?" queried the dense young man. "Oh! Chawley," was all she said. Then sky visitor shooting up through the ground. Sir William Berkeley, in 1647, who received Charlie appeared to catch on, for he blushed. He carefully weeded the earth and kept it fresh | balf a bushel of seed, from which he raised 16 | They waited until the belt-line train went the

McAllister would not Approve.

[Pittsburg Leader.] When we had asparagus, ah! that's what used to tax our etiquet. We didn't have it very often, but you know how, etiquetly speaking, you have to dally with it. We used see-just a plain towel-no soap-just a plain, crops of which 60 tons were shipped to Eng- dry wipe, thus-so it can't slip when you are to the guests at the table, and then all close their eyes and look out the window. Then you clutch the "spar" between your index thumb and your comex finger, slide down in your chair to an angle of twenty-five degrees, throw your head back, open your mouth, and let her slide.

Made Him Sick.

[New York Weekly.] Doctor (on ocean steamer)-Your turn has come, I see, sir. Allew me to-Seasick Passenger (an old bachelor)-N-o n-o, doctor. It-it will soon pass off. It isn't sea-seasickness. I looked too long at thosethose bridal couples.

Available Young Man-And do you also play the piane, mam'selle? Shrewd Mother (whispering)-Tell him no.



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THE GREAT APES.

Principal Characters of the Lower Animals that Most Resemble Man.

THE GORILLA.

Apes Not Developed into Men-Amount of Likeness and Most Formidable of Anthropoids-Its Country the Gorilla.

BY DR. J. H. PORTER.



NTHROPOIDS, from a man, as the animals take their name from the striking human resemblances which they exhibit. There are four groups of man-like apes, two of the Gorilla and Chim-

Gibbon species, live in Asia and the Asiatic is-Formerly there was much dispute about their anatomy and general development, but at present the only differences between biologists connect themselves with the interpretation of wellascertained likenesses and dissimilarities in

human genealogy. Divesting the subject of all technicalities, the results at which zoologists have arrived thropoids are structurally homologous throughopinion. Darwin expressly denies the possility of any such transformation. 3. The human traits of the great apes are not confined to a single species, but scattered throughout is the only operative religion of Africa. anthropoids at large.

While this is true, greater differences in conformation nevertheless exist between the



THE GORILLA lowest men and highest apes. So much certain, and has ceased to be a matter of opinion; but beyond these results of comparative anatomy, almost if not quite every question connected with this subject remains unsettled. Turning, then, from structure and the implications which may attach to it, we will now consider the descriptive zoology of the gorilla as it is given in accounts by naturalists and trav-

DOES NOT LIVE IN A CAVE, but in a tree, or more commonly in some deep recess of equatorial west African forests-was written in the sixth century B. C. by a Carthaginian Admiral, who commanded a fleet intended to circumnavigate the "Dark Continent." This account was afterward translated into Greek at Carthage, and has come down to us under the name of the " Periplus of Hanno." He refers to "certain hairy men and women named gorillas," but these are described as decidedly gregarious, which gorillas are not, and he also depicts them as in the habit of throw-

ing stones, which they never do, This name has been no doubt used as indefinitely as that of pongo, which was applied to the orang, chimpanzee, and gorilla alike. Andrew Battel, however, an English prisoner of the Portuguese at Angola in the early part of the 17th century, evidently knew of the "King of the African forest," as Du Chaillu calls this greatest of the apes. Bosman subsequently met with it in Guinea, and De la Brossa, 1738, and Bowditch, 1819, recorded the stories (all more or less fabulous) which they had heard of the ingens, or ngina, from natives of the

West Coast. Most likely we do not know the exact range of this animal. It has been met with on the Gaboon, Muni, Fernand-Vaz rivers, and in the of the former stream is its true home. But area, and has been incorrectly localized in the country between the Cameroon and Congo by that particular place.

An adult male of this species often reaches weigh, like the one shot by Koppenfels in the Ashangolo mountains, 400 pounds. The erect position is more readily assumed than by other anthropoids, owing to the

BHORTNESS OF ITS ARMS, which are, relatively to the bulk, but little longer than those of a man; also to the great breadth of its shoulders, and more particularly both broad and short, is not inverted as in all | foot. monkeys, and to some extent in all other apes likewise. Gorillas, therefore, are less adapted for climbing than any of their allies, and have almost uniformly been seen wandering upon

the ground. They are immense, most powerful, and extremely hideous creatures, with grotesquely disproportioned frames; and an old male, in their favorite position of leaning against a tree, would seem, at first sight, to justify Du Chaillu in all his romances. The somber hue of the dark gray hair on its body, the brutal and ferocious face, with its forehead obscured by immense supra-orbital ridges, those malign hazel-gray eyes, the bristling crest, great canine teeth, and deep reverberating roar, are sufficiently awe-inspiring, enough like the features of some monstrous human birth, to excuse almost any exaggerations. Formidable enough these creatures most certainly are, though Winwood Reade says they will always attempt to escape from human beings.

We have heretofore discussed so many of these dogmatic statements about wild beasts, that it is unnecessary to point out the fact that Reade's assertion amounts to nothing but this. namely, that no gorilla ever attacked him, and that no authentic instance of its having made an assault in other instances had come under his notice. In Africa, however, their unprovoked murders are universally credited, and there is no reason for denying the evidence of natives who live with the beast on this point, because it is mingled with fables and superstitions derived from its horribly-human appearance.

For the most part, gorillas are undoubtedly VEGETABLE FEEDERS, and belong to a fruit-cating species, that lives upon wild plants, roots and berries, or the products of cultivated fields, which are plundered by night. On the other hand, Dr. Hartman saw no reason for discrediting Savage's statement that they occasionally devour men and

mals, upon birds and their sggs and upon reptiles." To which observation he adds the information that "captive gorillas at Berlin

developed a special taste for animal food." Whatever their anthropophagous habits may be, certainly no unarmed human being could stand for an instant before the arms and fangs of a full-grown male gorilla, who might or might not devour him after death, according to predispositions, circumstances, or necessities, about which naturalists know little in general and nothing in particular.

In a wild state gorillas have been seen but little, and their way of life is therefore by no means fully understood. They are shy, wary and Difference Between Them-Gorillas Largest | and nearly solitary creatures, who overawe the populations in their vicinity, and whose habitat, and Way of Life-Superstitions in Africa About | besides being incompletely explored, is, so far as climate is concerned, among the most deadly to foreigners upon the face of the earth. Despite the upright position which their conformation facilitates, they generally go

UPON ALL-FOURS, as their tracks indicate, and it is said that they the Greek Anthropos, always attack in this attitude, and not in an erect one, as described by Du Chaillu. Furbelonging to this high- ther, they never avail themselves in walking est division of the of the aid of a staff, like orang-outans. Tramammalia are called, ditionally, gorillas crouch on limbs of trees overhanging the pathways betwixt villages, and catch up unwary passers-by, whom they immediately strangle if men, or appropriate for wives in the case of women.

When young their resemblance to human beings is much stronger than in maturity. which, represented by This, according to Virchow and others, is due to the fact that the external table of the skull, which in most animals is more intimately rehome in Africa, while lated to the muscular apparatus than to the the other two, those of the Orang-outan and brain, receives constant additions to its processes and protuberances until their growth distorts the head so that it looks like a dreadful caricature of that of man. On the other hand, the mouth is comparatively smaller than in anthropoids generally, and the lips are less

A gorilla lays a few broken boughs and cross structure as these bear upon the question of pieces over the limbs of a tree, and may or may not attempt to cover it rudely and imperfectly from the weather. This platform is his only approach to the construction of a dwelling, and may be stated as follows: 1. Man and the an- is occupied by the gravid female, and for some time after their birth, by the mother and her out; that is to say, they possess similar organs offspring. The latter exhibit few of the ferocious and tissues whose functions are the same. 2. and intractably savage traits that distingush No ape, however, was ever metamorphosed into adults, and, as R. Ramsay Wright concludes a human being, and so far from holding this from all the evidence at present accessible, are quite susceptible of domestication. Innumerable superstitions connected with the gorilla beset the native mind. Witchcraft

THE GHOST IN SOME FORM is there at the beginning and end of all con highest and lowest apes than between the ceptions of supernatural power, of another life, and of all the relations which the unknown and shadowy realm of fancy sustains, in every aspect, towards the visible and material world Witches are always malevolent also, and every misfortune is to be attributed to their maleficent arts. Hence the African negro-all Africans are not negroes by any means-believes in witch-gorillas who delight in murder and are invulnerable, and thinks he may at any time meet the progeny of these, begotten by means of captive women carried off in the for-

It is scarcely credible that animals so extremely powerful and so well provided with means of offense could be, as they are, constantly hunted without many tragic occurrences; and it is, moreover, utterly opposed to all zoological analogies to suppose that creatures so capable of fatal aggression do not, occasionally at least, destroy human life without being intentionally provoked. Such incidents surround particular individuals of this species with an atmosphere of superstitious terror, as they do man-eating tigers, lions, or panthers. The savage reveres everything that he fears, and if it is very terrible he worships it. For every reason, then, the folk-lore connected with these great apes is extensive, and Du Chaillu probably did not overdraw his pictures of hunters sitting around their campfire at night and exchanging stories of the cruelty, malignant, craft, and supernatural powers of old gorillas. The term ape is said to be an onomatope, a

descriptive word, most likely of African origin, which in its first form attempted to designate the animal by imitating its voice. Whether the etymology be correct or not, the gorilla's voice when raised is one of the most impressive in nature. Monkeys are said to "swear" when enraged, and assuredly their angry chatter has every appearance of objurgation. A limited

SERIES OF SOUNDS, as expressive of pleasure and dissatisfaction, It is probable that the first notice of this has likewise been recorded in the case of creature-Troglodytes gorilla-the black cave | domesticated chimpanzees and orangs. But dweller, as it is technically called-although it the greatest of all apes has never, so far as the writer is aware, grown up in captivity. Its wholly unredeemed savagery, fierce and sullen temper, and imperfectlyobserved habits, leave us almost entirely in the dark concerning its vocalic changes and inflections. We know, however, that there are immense air-sacs attached to the windpipe in gorillas, and that these, together with the large and cavernous chest, greatly magnify the volume of that "harsh, jarring roar" which it utters when enraged, and which, when reverberating through the gloom of a tropical forest and seen to issue from a form that is scarcely earthly in appearance, may well appall the

listener. Further than this it would not be safe at present to pursue the peculiarities of Troglodytes gorilla. Much more information may be expected hereafter, but this animal has been but lately rediscovered, and under circumstances which, as was before said, are eminently unfavorable for a successful study of its habits and general way of life in those malarious equa-

torial solitudes to which it is confined. PENSION DECISIONS.

Rulings and Decisions by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Pensions. Assistant Secretary Bussey has overruled the decision of the Pension Office which rejected alluvial bottoms of the Ogowe and Danger; the claim of Lafayette F. Heck, Co. G, 1st indeed, Dr. Schweinfurth asserts that the delta | Tenn. Cav., on the ground that the loss of the claimant's foot, occasioned by frost bite, did Ford found great numbers of gorillas in the not occur while in line of duty. The applicant, Serra do Cristal, and as the families or pairs in | while a prisoner of war in 1864, was frostbitten which they live are of wandering habits, the | in the right foot, which was subsequently amgroup in all probability spreads over a wide putated. He is now receiving a pension of \$8. per month for hernia, but claims a pension for the loss of his foot. The question in the case those who encountered these animals only in | was whether the soldier's disability occurred while on a sick-furlough and in the line of duty. There is no record of a furlough, and there is five feet six or eight inches in hight, and may no record of hernia for which the soldier is

The Assistant Secretary holds that the evidence established that Heck had a sick-furlough, and at the time he incurred the disability he was in line of duty, and as it finally became necessary to amputate the soldier's foot in consequence of the injury, he directs the Pension Office to adjudicate the claim on the to the fact that the sole of the foot, which is basis of the law prescribing for the loss of one

> Who Knows Anything About Comrade Davis? EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In reading your paper of Oct. 2, in the article by John E. Farnsworth, "A Scout's Adventure," Mr. Norman Davis, of this place, recognized at once that it spoke of his escape, and came to me with the paper. Comrade Davis was a member of Co. C. 53d Ohio, and is now one of the comrades of Verlnig K. Hart Post, G.A.R., Department of Colorado, of this place, of which I have the honor of being Commander. He is a worthy man in every respect, and while he is a man of splendid physique, he still feels the result of his imprisonment and the hardships consequent. He has lost the sight of one eye, the result of measles, which he contracted just before being exchanged from Andersonville, and for which he was treated in the hospital at Columbus, O., in 1865. Comrade Davis has had great difficulty in securing evidence in regard to his disability, and his claim for pension has been pending for two or three years or more. This is because he was in prison, and not with any of his company or regiment when he was sick. We hope to secure special legislation in his behalf if we cannot secure the matter through the Pension Bureau. If any of the comrades know anything in regard to Comrade Davis while he was in prison or in hospital at Columbus, and will let him know, at this place, it will be kindly appreciated, -JOHN C. WATKINS, Commanding Verlnig K. Hart Post, G.A.R., Buffalo, Wyo.

Been There. [Puck.] "How much will it cost me to go to the races?" "How much have you got?" "About 75 dollars." "Well!"

Weak, Nervous Men. ment that they occasionally devour men and other animals whom they have killed. In his recent work upon "The Anthropoid Apes," he indicates the fact that they, like most species of apes, * * prey upon the smaller mam-



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